



MISS RHODA'S MEASURE.

Miss Rhoda sat in the west doorway. Her face was turned toward the sweet sky, radiant with its rays of red and golden light. It was nature's "withdrawing season." At Miss Rhoda's right was a field of stubble from which the wheat had been harvested. At her left the corn still stood, like Indian warriors, all over the field, waiting for the husking time. At her feet the maple leaves, so gorgeous in their autumnal plaids, were falling. Here and there the note of a stray bird which had tarried later than its fellows fell upon her ear. There was a chill in the air; the wind was rising, and it stirred the locks of silvery hair which usually lay with such calm precision about Miss Rhoda's face. She folded her black shawl closer about her shoulders, but still she lingered.

There was no kindly voice to warn her of the dangers that might come from longer exposure. No loved form to come to the door and say, "Come in, now; the air is chill and the fire is burning brightly. It is lonely in the room without you." Miss Rhoda was alone in the world; she had outlived those nearest and dearest to her.

In the afterglow of the lives of those who had belonged to her in the old home sweet memories lighted up the evening day, and as she looked intently at the western sky she seemed to see



IT'S TOO CLOSE-FISTED.

a vision of the pearly gates, behind whose portals these loved ones were dwelling. Watching the red and gold light fade away, and the darkness gather, she, like Christ, "fell sick" at the glimpse of the glories and wished she could be among them.

As she turned and went into the house, there was a look on her face which, if an artist had caught it at that moment, might have inspired him to paint a picture and call it "Remembrance." The most notable thing after she had grown old is the fact of remembrance. But in some things, like those of Miss Rhoda, it is a more deeply felt fact than in others.

"I was passing Miss Rhoda's house just at sunset to-night, and I saw her sitting at her west door," said Mr. Bates, as he sat down at the supper table. "I knew she was trying to work out the knots and knots about that mortgage on her place. But old Tom Carpenter will foreclose when the time comes. She can't expect any mercy from him; he is too close-fisted for that."

"Dear me!" exclaimed Miss Martha Bates. "What will become of her?" "She will have to go to the town-house, I suppose. It will be very hard on her; Miss Rhoda was always a high-spirited woman," her brother replied.

"And after all that woman has done to help other folks when they were in trouble!" exclaimed Mrs. Bates. "Think how she took in those Butler children and kept them after their mother died; and how she kept that young man who was too sick to work all winter. An oven mother couldn't have done more for him. I declare if Miss Rhoda has to give up her place and go on the town at her age, it will be a shame."

"Doesn't the Bible say, 'With what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again?'" asked Arthur, the tall boy at his mother's right. "How do you reconcile that passage of scripture with Miss Rhoda's prospects of going to the town-house? All my long life I have looked upon Miss Rhoda as one of the friends of the earth; she



MISS RHODA'S MEASURE.

to move. It's something I never did before, and it's sort of trying. But I'm thankful I don't feel so unrecalled and unhappy about it as I thought I should when I first made up my mind that there was nothing else I could do. My eyes are so poor I can't see any more. I say with John Bunyan, 'Perhaps my way to heaven lies through this very valley.' It is just as near the town-house, heaven is, as it is to my old home here, but then—well, I won't say one word against the Lord's dispensations. The Lord keepeth the feet of his children. If this is his way for me to walk, I hope he will give me strength to follow without faltering step."

"But, my dear Miss Rhoda, it is not going to be the Lord's will for you to leave your old home; you are to stay in it as long as you live."

When Miss Martha told her how her home had been secured to her, she exclaimed, "I never thought before how Abraham must have felt when he was ready to sacrifice Isaac and the Lord stayed his hand!"

has always been in some good work, and has had a kind word for everybody."

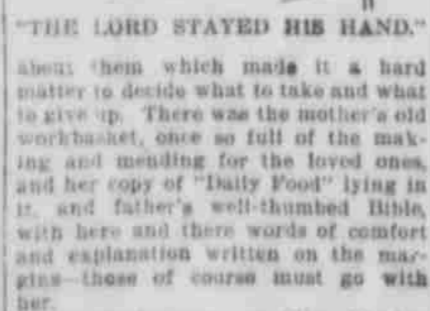
Aunt Martha did not like the spirit of criticism which her nephew had shown of late about reconciling statements of the Holy Scriptures. She spoke in a quick way and said, "Miss Rhoda had not gone to the town-house yet."

"No; but the finger on the signboard points that way," replied Arthur. "It is dreadful for old people to be obliged to give up their home and old associations and go where they would not," said Mrs. Bates. "Young folks can bear changes—many really enjoy them—but it is different with the aged."

Aunt Martha had not married—her acquaintances called her "a maiden lady." It was not because she never had opportunities to marry, she told her nephews and nieces, but because she loved them too well to break her home ties with them. It had long ago been settled that the Bates family could not do without Aunt Martha, and Aunt Martha could not get along without them. "How dreadful it must be," was her thought that night, "to have no love-light in one's life."

Then Miss Martha sat down and wrote a letter to her brother John, who lived in the city. She told him of Miss Rhoda; what a patient, faithful life hers had been, and now, just as nearing the end of the journey, she must be forced to give up her home and go to the town-house. Then she added, "John, you and I must pay off that mortgage, and give Miss Rhoda the home for her life. We are able; let us be willing to do it. What a joyous Christmas we shall have if we do this! Miss Rhoda must have the measure meted out to her that she has meted out to others."

The result was that Brother John who was quite apt to act on sister Martha's suggestions, joined her in the labor of love for her neighbor. When Miss Martha went over to see Miss Rhoda, a short time before the foreclosure of the mortgage, she found her looking over her things—she could not carry many with her; for the room was small she expected to occupy. But there was this little memento and that gift with sweet memories associated



THE LORD STAYED HIS HAND.

about them which made it a hard matter to decide what to take and what to give up. There was the mother's old workbasket, once so full of the making and mending for the loved ones, and her copy of "Daily Food" lying in it, and father's well-thumbed Bible, with here and there words of comfort and explanation written on the margins—these of course must go with her.

to move. It's something I never did before, and it's sort of trying. But I'm thankful I don't feel so unrecalled and unhappy about it as I thought I should when I first made up my mind that there was nothing else I could do. My eyes are so poor I can't see any more. I say with John Bunyan, 'Perhaps my way to heaven lies through this very valley.' It is just as near the town-house, heaven is, as it is to my old home here, but then—well, I won't say one word against the Lord's dispensations. The Lord keepeth the feet of his children. If this is his way for me to walk, I hope he will give me strength to follow without faltering step."

"But, my dear Miss Rhoda, it is not going to be the Lord's will for you to leave your old home; you are to stay in it as long as you live."

When Miss Martha told her how her home had been secured to her, she exclaimed, "I never thought before how Abraham must have felt when he was ready to sacrifice Isaac and the Lord stayed his hand!"



It was Arthur who planned a house-warming for Miss Rhoda on Christmas eve. The young men and young women of the church and town filled her woodshed with wood and coal, and her cupboard-shelves with things needful for the necessities of the body. The fathers and mothers joined in the work of love, and there was never such a thorough house-warming done in that locality before. A new light came into Miss Rhoda's face that Christmas tide. It was love-light—she was not alone in the world any longer; she belonged to her good neighbors, and they belonged to her.

When the Christmas bells rang in the church belfry on Christmas morning the people heard them with gladness, and thanked the Lord that they had been enabled to help return Miss Rhoda's measure running over full.

CHRISTMAS RAPPINGS.

(By James Rolfe Hapgood.)

If a friend should rap at your old home door
On the Christmas morning fair,
With a present for you and your little dear,
Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a boy should rap at your old home door
On the Christmas morning fair,
Your wandering boy, that you thought was lost—
Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a babe should rap at your old heart door
On the Christmas morning fair,
To give you a kiss or a hug or two,
Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

If a God should rap at your old heart door
On the Christmas morning fair,
To give you a Son with a heavenly home,
Say, wouldn't you open, Claire?

Christmas Kindnesses.

At this season of the year, remember that it is your duty as children, and also your privilege, to glorify God, to promote peace, and to extend good will to those around you. You may promote the blessing of peace on earth by frankly forgiving those who may grieve or annoy you, by persuading enemies to be reconciled to each other, and by daily prayer to God to preserve the nations of the earth from the deadly horrors of war. And you may in a great many ways show good will to men. Are there not poor people within a short walk of your own door who will receive no Christmas cards, no nice presents of food or good clothing, whose children have no nice toys or picture books, of which some of you have such an abundance that you scarcely know where to find room for?—Christian Herald.

What Makes a Happy Christmas.

It does not require much money, nor indeed any money, to make a happy home circle on Christmas. The chief thing is a warm and merry heart. It will devise ways and means for filling the home with cheer, joy and gladness. A little invention, a little effort, and much love will give the day a halo brighter than tinsel and gold. God did not require extra material to paint every tree and bush in all this region a crystal whiteness the other night. He used only a little moisture and a little cold, and in the morning men exclaimed in wonder, "What beauty!" So the simple things beautify and glorify the home, and make holidays bright with joys beyond the purchase of money.—Michigan Christian Advocate.

Christmas gifts for thee,
Fair and free!
Precious things from the heavenly store
Filling thy casket more and more;
Gilder love in divinest chain,
That never can be untwined again;
Silliest carols of joy that swell
Sweetest of all in the heart's lone cell.

A MURDERER JAILED.

HE WAS INSANE AND KILLED HIS FATHER.

A Crowd of Armed Men Battered Down the Door and Captured the Murderer, His Brother and Mother, Who Had Lost Their Minds from Grief.

New York, Dec. 15.—At Vineland, N. J., a crowd of armed men battered down the door of the home of Luirgo Jurio, cut through the cellar and after a terrific struggle captured Antonio Jurio, who had brutally murdered his father.

In the cellar with the murderer were his mother and brother, all insane with religious frenzy. Until recently the Jurio family were living happily together, but the death of a young son seemed to turn the minds of them all. The father was finally murdered because he refused to longer indulge in the insane and boisterous religious service. The crime was committed with a club, and was witnessed by crowds of people who feared to attempt to rescue the old man. The murderer and his insane mother and brother were carried off to jail.

House and Senate.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The final vote on the immigration bill will be taken in the senate Thursday at 4 p. m. according to an agreement reached yesterday. Little doubt is entertained as to the passage of the measure, and as it already has passed the house it will be in conference before the holidays.

Senator Call (dem.) renewed attention to the Cuban question by three resolutions, being a bitter denunciation of the manner in which it is alleged Gen. Antonio Maceo had been killed while under a flag of truce. In other resolutions Mr. Call requested the president to demand the release of United States prisoners at the Spanish penal settlement on the Island of Ceuta, and also ask the secretary of state for a list of Americans held in Spanish prisons. The Call resolutions went to the committee on foreign relations.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Before agreeing to a resolution for a two weeks' holiday recess, beginning Dec. 22, the proceedings in the house yesterday were almost entirely devoid of public interest. Most of the day was spent in a struggle over the bill of Mr. Morse of Massachusetts, to render the laws relating to the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia more stringent. The opposition were inclined to filibuster against the measure, but it finally passed.

The president's veto of a bill to pension Lydia A. Taft, a "divorced widow," was sustained, 82 to 85, two-thirds not holding to override the veto. Relief bills were passed.

The reported assassination of Maceo, the Cuban patriot, and its effect on the attitude of this country toward the revolutionists, was almost the sole topic of conversation on the floor before the house met yesterday, and there was a general expectation that radically sensational developments would be encountered. No resolutions, however, were offered in open session.

Mr. Dingley, chairman of the ways and means committee, presented a concurrent resolution for a holiday recess from Thursday, Dec. 22, until Tuesday, Jan. 5. The resolution was adopted without division.

A bill to constitute a new division of the eastern judicial circuit of Texas and to provide for holding court at Beaumont, Tex., was passed.

Boats Collide.

New York, Dec. 15.—The Clyde line steamer Saginaw, Capt. Johnson, which arrived yesterday from San Domingo and Turks Island, brought from the latter port Capt. Records, Mate Thompson and five of the schooner Amelia P. Schmidt of Bridgeport, N. J., which sailed from Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 11 for Jamaica, Haiti, lumber laden. Capt. Records reports that on the evening of Nov. 30 he was run into by an unknown two-masted schooner. The Schmidt had been looking before the collision, which carried away her steering gear. Before the Schmidt was "handed" she was set on fire, as she was directly in the track of vessels and would prove very dangerous to navigation. The unknown schooner lost her jibboom. After the collision she kept right on her course and made not the slightest attempt to ascertain the condition of the Schmidt or learn if assistance was required.

Religion and Politics.

There must be no compromise with evil. It is our duty to carry our convictions into all the walks of life, into our business and into our politics. The man who doesn't carry his religion into his politics, in my opinion, has a very poor kind of religion and a very poor kind of politics.—Rev. H. L. Huntington.

Armed Outlaws.

Newark, N. J., Dec. 15.—Twice during the past week armed outlaws have been stationed at Chillicothe siding, ten miles north of here, awaiting a favorable opportunity to hold up and rob the two night passenger trains. These trains often pass there, but one night they were warned and another night one was late, and they passed the point at full speed. The outlaws came across the Arkansas river from the Osage country, which is but a few miles away at that point, and could readily escape to safe hiding places.

United States Consul General Quarried.

Havana, Dec. 15.—The United States consulate general in this city is under special guard of armed police-men. This precaution is taken by the Spanish authorities owing to the fear that the indignation expressed by United States would find vent in an attack upon the consulate. There have been fresh signs of the hostile feeling against the United States in view of the news in Cuba of the sympathy of American citizens. In the absence of Consul General Fitzhugh Lee the consulate is in charge of the vice-consul general, Mr. Joseph A. Springer.

Forty cases of small-pox have occurred at Santiago de Las Vegas, and thirty-eight of those who had not been vaccinated have died from the disease. News has been received from Madrid that the queen regent has granted an audience to the wife of Major Cirujeda, whose troops effected the death of Maceo. The steamer Alicante has arrived here, having on board 120 troops.

Private advices give assurance of the death from dysentery of the insurgent leader, Gen. Manuel Suarez, who has been a protégé of Martinez Campos ever since the peace of San Juan. He still had Campos' confidence at Villa Clara, previous to the general's voyage to Manzanillo, but at that time he proved so traitorous as almost to lead to the death of Campos at Paralelo.

It is reported here that the naval authorities in Havana, and the minister of marine in Madrid are investigating the story that Antonio Maceo passed from Pinar del Rio to Havana province by sea, the object being to fix the responsibility. Dr. Zertich has been cited to give evidence on the subject.

A correspondent called upon Capt. Gen. Weyler at the palace yesterday evening to inquire regarding the rumor circulated in the United States that the crew of the American ship Competitor, for taking part in a filibustering expedition, were to be executed here to-day. Gen. Weyler said there were no truth in this rumor.

The crew, he said, was not to be executed to-day, and the trial of their case will, in fact, continue for a long time yet.

Mob Dispersed.

Tipton, Mo., Dec. 15.—A mob appeared at the county jail here Sunday night and demanded to be admitted to the cell of Isaac Vaughan, who is charged with having murdered his aunt, Mrs. Nancy Birdson, who reared him. Sheriff Born, fearing mob violence, had previously taken Vaughan to Jefferson City, and when he assured his visitors that Vaughan was not in the jail, the mob dispersed. Mrs. Birdson was murdered Friday evening at her home, four miles south of here, being shot to death while standing in her door yard. Robbery is supposed to have been the motive. Vaughan was arrested on information furnished by his wife and her father, named Williams. They stated that Vaughan left home early Friday evening, taking his gun and stating that he was going turkey hunting. He did not return until 1 o'clock in the morning. His clothing and gun were found to be blood-stained, and it is now learned that he was seen in the vicinity of his aunt's home on the evening of the murder.

Supposed to be Norwood.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 15.—Coroner Parker, of Columbia, Mo., is convinced that the man who fell from a Katy train near that place last Thursday and was killed, was W. B. Norwood, of Nobility, Tex. He received yesterday a detailed description of her missing husband from Mrs. Norwood, and it fits the corpse exactly. Mrs. Norwood is expected to arrive to-day to verify the identification. The dead man was undoubtedly thrown from the train by a sudden lurch as he was passing from one car to another, although several passengers made suicide stories of the accident. He had \$275 in currency with him—\$2400 in a small grip and the rest in his pockets. There was nothing on his person to identify him, and the only clue was his ticket, which read from Denison, Tex., to Chicago. He lived several hours after his fall but never regained consciousness.

Bank Failures.

Hollidaysburg, Pa., Dec. 15.—The First National bank of this place, the oldest bank in this section of the state and one of the original fifty-seven in the United States, suspended business yesterday morning.

The following notice was posted in the front door of the bank: "On account of the heavy drain upon this bank for the past thirty days and especially the last two or three days, the board of directors have decided to suspend business until further notice."

Two other banks, at Martinsburg and Williamsburg, failed as a result of the first failure.

At Edwardsville, Ill., recently, the banking house of John A. Prickett & Son suspended.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 15.—A special received from Key West yesterday evening states that the cruisers Newark and Raleigh received telegraphic instructions from Washington at noon yesterday and that the cruisers at once put to sea to capture the steamer Three Friends, which left Fernandina at an early hour yesterday morning with a cargo of ammunition and arms, besides fifty Cubans, to be landed in Cuba.

Instructions were also received for the revenue cutter McCain at Miami to intercept the Three Friends, if possible.

Choosing a Novel.
A writer lets out a secret regarding the way in which young women read novels.

It was in the train-car, that place in which the experiences are varied enough to make a man cosmopolitan if he will study them. Two girls are talking of what they read.

"Oh, I choose a novel easily enough," one said. "I go to the circulating library and look at the last chapters. If I find the rain softly and easily drooping over one or two lonely graves, I don't take it, but if the morning sun is glimmering over bridal robes of white satin, I know it is all right, and take it, and start to buy sweets to eat while I read it."—London Standard.

He Kept Cheerful.
Mrs. Van Ishe—"What did the doctor do to cure your melancholy?"

Ten Broke—"Told me to be cheerful."

Mrs. Van Ishe—"How did you accomplish it?"

Ten Broke—"By not paying his bill."

—Truth.

Very grate talkers have few real friends.

Pier's Cure for Consumption has been a family medicine with us since 1863.—J. H. Madison, 2409 43d Ave., Chicago, Ill.

What a lot of attention everyone gives the business of other people.

PITS cured free and permanently cured. No other cure known. Dr. Pitts' Great Nerve Restorer. Price \$2.00 per bottle and 10 for \$15.00. Sent by Dr. Pitts, 211 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Too much said about love and not enough about marriage license.

A COLD SNAP.

Like an Invading Army, Brings Suffering and Death and a Host of Ills.

Few people realize what a calamity the ordinary blizzard is. The sudden lowering of the temperature finds many people unprepared to meet the change. Here and there a victim is singled out who succumbs quickly to some acute malady, the direct result of cold. An unnumbered multitude, however, survive, who have acquired some catarrhal affection more or less severe. A common cold is acute catarrh, which quickly becomes chronic catarrh if allowed to remain. Every cold snap leaves in its trail thousands of cases of catarrh, many of whom for want of an effective remedy, will suffer from this disease the rest of their lives. Is there anything that can be done to prevent all this?

In the first place, Peruna used at the proper time will prevent taking cold. In the second place, Peruna will cure a cold in from two to five days. Again, Peruna will cure catarrh quickly in the first stages, and finally Peruna will cure also chronic catarrh, if used properly and persistently. Peruna kept in the house and properly used will therefore not only act as a safeguard against the ailments which result from sudden cold waves; but will also prove a sure remedy for this class of ailments.

Any one desiring an instructive, 64-page illustrated book on catarrh and catarrhal diseases can obtain one free by sending name and address to The Peruna Drug Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ohio. This book was recently written by Dr. Hartman, the well-known author and specialist on catarrhal diseases.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quick medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonic known, combined with the best blood purifier, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free. E. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, price 25c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Talk to any woman a half hour, and she will ask you if you don't want some kittens at your house.



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.